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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Ration Cards for Bread, Food, Clothing: Categories /
Issue Procedures / Kooperativa Konsumit Membership
Document

DATE DISTR. 8 FEB 1954

NO. OF PAGES 8

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. [redacted] ration cards in Albania [redacted]

Administrative Control

2. "Control of purchases of bread, other food commodities and clothing passes through the following administrative channels: The Kryeministria (Council of Ministers) issues orders to the Ministria Tregtis, Seksionit Taksimit (Ministry of Commerce, Ration Cards Section), Blv. Shqipria e Re, Tirana; This ministry issues orders in turn to the Commerce Section, of the Komitet Ekzekutiv Keshillit Popullar Rrethit (Executive Committee of the People's Board) of each of Albania's 22 regions and also to the Commerce Section of the Executive Committee of the People's Board for the City of Tirana.

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3. "Ration cards are issued by:

- (a) The Commerce Section of the Executive Committee or the People's Board in each regional capital and also the one for the city of Tirana proper, to: all persons entitled to receive ration cards who are not within the Government's field of labor.
- (b) The Non/Punesit Trisktimt (Ration Card Supervisor) in each and every State enterprise, institution, ministry, plant etc. to: all persons who are within the Government's field of labor and also to their relatives (wife, children --even if attending school, uncles, aunts, mother and father of head of the family, grandmother and grandfather of the head of the family).

4. "Ration cards are issued for three main categories of consumer goods:

<u>Buke</u>	- Bread
<u>Ushqimi</u>	- Food Commodities
<u>Veshmbathje</u>	- Clothing

5. "All ration cards are printed by the Stabilimenti Mihal Duri, Rr e Kavajes, Tirana.

6. "All ration cards bear a stamp on the right hand corner of the front page over the serial number of the Kom. Ekz. K.F. of the city of Tirana or of the regional capital where it has been issued -- no special indication of the section of the People's Board. Ration card of State employees bear on the rear page the round stamp of the Non/Punes Trisktimt of the State institution etc. concerned, also that person's signature.

7. "Farmers, and even sons of farmers who are attending elementary school in villages or localities, are not entitled to ration cards of any kind.

Categories

8. "There are 13 general categories of ration cards:

(a) Triske Ordinare - Ordinary Ration Cards.

- Issued to:
- (1) Non-employed wives of heads of families, whose husbands are in the Government's field of labor -- regardless of the husband's type of job.
 - (2) People aged 55 and over, regardless of social origin, who are not employed. This category includes 'reactionaires'.
 - (3) Children aged 13 months through six years, regardless of parents' social origin.
 - (4) All persons under 55 who possess a Raporti Mediko-Legal (Medical Certificate) issued by the Medical-Legal Commission of a regional civilian hospital stating that they are unfit or unable to work for medical reasons.

Triske Buke Ordinare - Ordinary Bread Ration Card

Issued each month, with detachable coupons for each day of the month. Amount of daily ration printed on each coupon (in Jan 52 the daily ration was 400 gms). Bears month, bearer's name and surname, address and statement that 'Duplicates are not issuable' ('Dublikat nuk leshohet'). The February card will naturally have only 28 coupons. No regulations on the rear page. Only the bread ration card is detached from a register, leaving a counterfoil which indicates bearer's name and surname, address and serial number of his card.

Triske Ushqimi Ordinare - Ordinary Food Commodities Ration Card

Issued each month with a detachable coupon for each commodity with the amount of the ration printed on it. (In Jan 52 the

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amounts were:

Sheqer - sugar	- 200 gms
Makaron - macaroni	- 200 gms
Vaj - cooking oil	- 100 gms
Oriz - rice	- 250 gms
Sapun - soap	- 150 gms
Fasule - beans	- 250 gms
Marmelat - jam	- 500 gms
Diathe - cheese	- 250 gms
Sallce - tomato sauce	- 250 gms
Kripe - salt	- 500 gms
Veze - eggs	- four (cop means pieces)
Mish - meat	- 900 gms
Ulli - olives	- 500 gms
Zarzavate - vegetables:) Quantity depends on
Peme - fruits:) availability, depending on

the Bloku Kooperatives
Konsumit (Group of Consump-
tion Cooperatives) for the
region, e g Bloku K.K.K. is
Consumption Cooperatives of
the Kukes region.

Triske Washbathje Ordinere - Ordinary Clothing Ration Card

Issued every three months for a three-month period. The detachable coupons each bear the initials of the months for which they are valid (e g J.S.H.M is Janar-January, Shkurt-February, Mars-March) and a number pertaining to certain items listed on the back of the card. The last two coupons also bear the inscription EME.GU, which means One Guzhine (Kitchen items-pots and pans etc.) Total points for three months: 28,

(b) Triske Puntori Leht 2 (P.L.2) - Light Workers' No. 2 Ration Cards

- Issued to:
- (1) Employees within the Government's field of labor whose monthly basic pay (iroge base) does not exceed 2070 Lek.
 - (2) All children attending courses within the so-called 7 Vjecare (Seven-Year Education): elementary school pupils and semi-matura (gymnasium) students. Ages 7-14 inclusive.

As in (a) there are three types of cards, resembling those in (a).

Triske Buqe P.L.2

Rosy-colored. Each daily coupon worth Jan 52 six hundred gms bread.

Triske Ushqimi P.L.2

Blue (light) in color. Jan 52 the amounts were:

Sheqer	- 250 gms
Makaron	- 250 gms
Vaj	- 100 gms
Oriz	- 300 gms
Sapun	- 200 gms
Fasule	- 300 gms
Marmelat	- 500 gms
Diathe	- 250 gms
Sallce	- 500 gms
Kripe	- 500 gms
Veze	- six
Mish	- 1000 gms
Ulli	- 500 gms
Zarzavate and Peme variable, as in (a)	

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Triske Veshmbathje P.L.

White card, issued for three months. Note: not P.L. 2 because the same card is issued also to Puntori Leht 1. This card bears regulations on the back pertaining to the number of points necessary for various clothing items. Total points for three months: 47.

(c) Triske Puntori Leht 1 - Light Workers' No. 1 Ration Cards

Issued to (regardless of sex, as above):

- (1) Workers and employees in the Government's field of labor whose monthly basic pay ranges between 2100-3400 Lek.
Note: workers in produksionit - production output, e.g. the Misto Manee Furniture Plant or the Kombinati Tekstilitit Stalin in Tirana - whose pay is not more than 3400 Lek per month are entitled to the Heavy Workers' Ration Card No. 1 or 2.
- (2) Students in gjimnaset (gymnasium), liceu (lyceum) and mesma shkolla (medium school) status, regardless of age, but normally 15 through 18.

Triske Buqe P.L.1

Dark brown card, similar in format to that in (a). Each daily coupon worth 700 gms Jan 52.

Triske Ushqimi P.L.1

Light brown card, similar in format to that in (a). [Color not exactly clear in descriptive text; may be yellow.] Amounts issuable Jan 52:

Sheqer	- 300 gms	Kripe - 500 gms
Makaron	- 300 gms	
Vaj	- 150 gms	
Ora	- 300 gms	
Sapun	- 200 gms	
Fasule	- 300 gms	
Marmelat	- 500 gms	
Diathe	- 250 gms	
Sallce	- 500 gms	
Veze	- six	
Mish	- 1000 gms	
Ulli	- 500 gms	

Zarzavata and Peme variable, as in (a).

Triske Veshmbathje P.L.

Same as that issued Light Workers No. 2.

(d) Triske Puntori Rend 1 - Heavy Workers' No 1 Ration Cards

Issued to (regardless of sex): Employees within the Government's field of labor whose basic monthly wage exceeds 6000 Lek. An exception is made for shock workers, who have a special ration card.

Triske Buqe P.R.1

Dark red card, similar in format to the Triske Buqe Ordinare. Issued for one month. Each coupon worth Jan 52, 1000 gms bread daily.

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Triske Ushqimi P.R.1

Dark red card, similar in format to the Triske Ushqimi Ordinere.
Issued for one month. Coupons worth Jan 52:

Sheqer	- 500 gms
Makaron	- 500 gms
Vaj	- 200 gms
Oriz	- 500 gms
Sapun	- 250 gms
Fasule	- 500 gms
Marmelat	- 500 gms
Diathe	- 250 gms
Sallce	- 500 gms
Kripe	- 500 gms
Veze	- 10
Mish	- two kgs
Ulli	- 500 gms

Triske Veshmbathje P.R.

'Normal' red card, similar in format to the Triske Veshmbathje Ordinere, with detachable coupons and regulation printed on the back. Total number of clothing points for three months 18.

Note: This same card is issued also to Heavy Workers No. 2, so there is no number after the P.R. in the title.

(e) Triske Puntor Rand 2 - Heavy Workers' No. 2 Ration Cards

- Issued to (regardless of sex):
- (1) Workers in the Government's field of labor whose basic monthly pay ranges between 3400-6000 Lek, including those in Produksionit.
 - (2) All students at technical schools (engineering etc.)

Triske Buqe P.R.2

Light red card, similar in format to the Triske Buqe Ordinere. In Jan 52 each coupon worth 800 gms, thus 800 gms bread daily,

Triske Ushqimi P.R.2

Light red card, similar in format to the Triske Ushqimi Ordinere. Monthly coupons worth Jan 52:

Sheqer	- 400 gms
Makaron	- 500 gms
Vaj	- 200 gms
Oriz	- 400 gms
Sapun	- 250 gms
Fasule	- 400 gms
Marmelat	- 500 gms
Diathe	- 250 gms
Sallce	- 500 gms
Kripe	- 500 gms
Veze	- eight
Mish	- 1500 gms
Ulli	- 500 gms

Triske Veshmbathje P.R.

Same card issued Heavy Workers No. 1. Forty-eight points for three months.

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(f) Triske Sulmusi - Ration Cards for Shockworkers (Sulmusi, Stakanovisti)

These cards resemble the Triske Ordinare in format. White cardboard printed in red. [] the bread ration in 1952 was 1000 gms daily.

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(g) Triske per Femi Deri 12 Muej - Ration Card for Babies up to 12 Months

Issued to all babies aged up to one year, regardless of parents' social origin.

Note: only one card, not a set of three. This card, white cardboard of the standard format, printed in blue, entitles the parents to draw certain amounts of milk, sugar and butter for a baby.

(h) Triske Per Gra 7 Zana - Ration Cards for Pregnant Women

Issued to women from the third month of pregnancy to the baby's birth, regardless of social origin. The woman must possess a medical certificate issued by a State midwife.

[] Not clear whether one or three cards [] White card, regular format, printed in green. Entitles bearer to extra rations, including sugar, butter and flour.

(i) Triske Per Ushqim Suplimentar - Supplementary Food Commodity Ration Cards

Issued to tubercular patients, who have become ill through work in the Government's field of labor and who have followed the routine of Sigurimi Shognor (Social Insurance) [] Thus, reactionnaires and sons of reactionnaires are barred from this benefit.

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Three categories, similar to the standard cards in format. Type A printed in blue, Type B printed in red, Type C printed in green -- all white. They entitle holders to extra rations of sugar, butter, oil, rice and macaroni.

(j) Triske Per FunkSIONar - Ration Cards for [] Important [] Employees

Issued only to top Communists: ministers, vice-ministers; deputati of the Kuvendit Follor; all generals of the Armed Forces; directors of such kombinati as the Kombinati Textilit Stalin, Kombinati Shogorit Ali Kelmendi; regional secretaries of the Labor Party; chiefs of Sigurimi Shetit (Security Police) in regional capitals. Issue depends on military rank or civilian basic monthly pay, work category and class. In Tirana City these were issued only by Murat Mama, Director of the Commerce Section of the People's Board for the City of Tirana.

Issued once a year. Similar to an Identification Card: 12 pages, one for each month, plus two cover sheets. The inside papers are white, the cover sheets creamy yellow. Card entitles holder to unlimited ration of white bread each day, plus five kgs per month of all other ration food items. It also entitles holder -- and his dependents or representatives collecting his rations -- to step automatically to the head of any queues for rationed goods.

(k) Triske Vaj Guri - Ration Card for Oil for Light [] kerosene ? []

Issued to all persons, regardless of social origin (including reactionnaires) who do not have electric light installed in their homes. Issue is linked to a Vertetim (declaration) issued by the Kshilli Iagjes (city sub-sector) [] of by a local People's Board in the country [] where the family group resides.

Issued twice a year. Card of similar size to the regular ration card. Made of blue cardboard with black letters, six coupons to a card -- one for each month. One coupon entitles holder to three liters of petroleum oil per month.

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- (1) Triske Qumshi Per Femi Deri 6 Vjec - Milk Ration Card for Children Aged One to Six Years.

Issued, in addition to the three Triske Ordinances, to all children from 13 months through six years, inclusive, regardless of social origin.

Issued monthly. A white card with green letters, similar to the normal size. Entitles child to 1/2 liter of milk per day.

- (m) Triske - Antarsie - Dependents' Ration Cards

Issued only to persons within the Government's field of labor. Validity ceases automatically at termination of employment. When a person is hired within the Government's field of labor -- in a State ministry, institution, plant, etc. -- he is issued ration cards by the Nen/Punes Tresktimit [see Paragraph 3 (b) and items above on cards issued to various types of citizens] for himself and his dependents: ration cards for bread, food commodities, clothing and any special ones to which the family is entitled. From the Seksionit Kuadrit (Personnel Section) of the institution etc. the worker obtains a Vertetim (Verification Document) on headed paper which states that Worker X employed in such-and-such institution, hasdependents and works as a With this Vertetim the worker goes to the Drejtoria Kooperativa Konsumit nearest him (Tirana: Rr. Pazar Iri). He presents the Vertetim, pays 100 Lek, and receives a Triske-Antarsie, which brings him membership in the Kooperativa Konsumit. Membership in the Cooperative is not obligatory, but it is the only way to get additional firewood and coal. The Triske-Antarsie is valid for one year.

The Triske - Antarsie is a booklet, about 4 1/4" x 5 3/4", with a cover of thick, dark gray paper. There are eight (16 sides) inside pages, white, printed in black. The front cover bears the initials of the appropriate regional Kooperativa Konsumit (K.K.T - Kooperativa Konsumit Tirane, K.K.D - Kooperativa Konsumit Durres etc.); the title of the card; 'Persona' after which is inserted the number of persons in the family group (the worker and his dependents); and a serial number. The first inside page bears the name of the regional Kooperativa Konsumit; the worker's name, surname, profession, institution where employed, address and the Bloku-Ushqimavet number on which he depends. (The outlets for the Consumption Cooperatives, in cities, depend on the bloku or block of the rajone in which a person lives. Bread and food commodities can be collected only at the Bloku Ushqimavet indicated in the Triske-Antarsie. Clothing items may be collected at any Kooperativa Konsumit. This first page is signed by the issuing Drejtoria Kooperativa Konsumit and bears the appropriate K.K. stamp and the date of issue. Then comes a page for each month of the year. Each page lists the worker's Bloku-Ushqimavet number, his name and surname, category of the ration cards issued him and his dependents, signature and stamp of the responsible Kooperativa Konsumit representative of the block concerned where commodities collected. Each monthly page has a column listing Sendi (items) and Cmimi (price). The items are:

Sheqar	- Sugar	Piper	-Pepper
Makaroni	- Macaroni	Komposto	-Compote
Vaj	- Cooking oil	Turshi	-Canned tomatoes, cucumbers etc.
Oriz	- Rice	Krype	-Salt
Sapun	- Soap	Ullij	-Olives
Fasule	- Beans	Mjalte	-Apples
Marmelat	- Jam	Mjell	- [not translated]
Djathe	- Cheese	Biskota	-Biscuits
Gjalpr	- Butter	Karamele	-Candy
Gjize	- Buttermilk curd	Cokollate	-Chocolate
Sallce	- Tomato Sauce		
	Liqor - Liquor		

The front of the last page is divided into three parts, with sections for four months in each part. This page concerns Gymir (coal) and Dru (firewood). Coal and wood are collected at the Kooperativa Konsumit of the Block to which the worker is responsible. The K.K. representative there signs in the quantity collected, the date and his name in the appropriate monthly box.

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The last page of the Triske-Antarsie provides a record of the holder's Taksi (membership fees) for the riti (year). There are columns for each month, for amount paid and signature of official at the appropriate Drjtoria K.K.. A monthly sum is payable -- 100 Lek -- at the Drjtoria K.K.

Any time a housewife goes to her Bloku-Ushqimvet to buy food commodities, coal or firewood, she hands in her ration books, from which the necessary coupons are detached, and her Triske-Antarsie, in which the purchased items are recorded.

If a worker loses his job in the Government's field of labor, for any reason that is non-political, he is not bound to hand back his Triske-Antarsie. But it automatically loses its value since all ration cards must, upon dismissal, be handed back to the Nen/Punait Triskimit of the enterprise concerned.

9. "Special clothing authorizations, in addition to the normal clothing ration card, are issued to various privileged categories of Communists: Sulmasi and Stakanovisti (as premia), students leaving to study in the USSR or other satellite countries, persons entitled to the Triske Per Funkionar. These are typewritten on white paper that bears the heading of the Sekaionit Tregetise (Commerce Section) of the Executive Committee of the Regional People's Board concerned. It is signed and stamped by the Pergjegjesi (Director) of that section.

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